

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 4, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi Speaker of the House U.S. House of Representatives H-232 The Capitol Washington, DC 20515	The Honorable Steny Hoyer Majority Leader U.S. House of Representatives H-107 U.S. Capitol Washington, DC 20515	The Honorable Kevin McCarthy Minority Leader U.S. House of Representatives 1705 Longworth Building Washington, DC 20515
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Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader Hoyer, and Minority Leader McCarthy:

We start this letter by offering our sincere thanks to you and your staff for all the work that you have done to help the American people during this emergency. The bipartisan work being done here in Congress is unprecedented and shows what we can do together to overcome extraordinary events.

Our nation continues to suffer from the effects of the COVID-19 crisis. Congress has done tremendous work advancing multiple pieces of legislation to mitigate the impact, but it is increasingly obvious that more must be done. We are advocating here that our nation's ports must be included in any future packages. This is a sector of our economy that has so far been left out of proposals but needs assistance to carry on their essential work. Ports remain vitally important to the well-being of our communities during this time and will be critical for recovery efforts once this crisis is over. However, due to their unique governing structures, these entities have not been eligible for many of the recently enacted relief programs. Our ask here is simple: we must include relief specifically set aside for our ports in the next COVID-19 package.

Funding sources vary for ports, but all have seen their budgets hit hard by the ongoing business closures and stay-at-home orders. Yet, port staff are not able to just lock up their facilities and go home. Their vital work must continue to move the goods the American people need and to maintain safety and security for these essential workers. Congress should recognize the enormous impact this is having by including them in the next package.

Most important is that the next package disperses aid to ports of all sizes, both large and small alike. Our solution must make sure that all our ports receive the resources they need. Small ports are often the lifeblood of communities and are the hardest hit by these events. We must not forget them when crafting these policies. Any effort enacted here must be able to flow down to the smallest port to help them weather this emergency.

Ports come in all sizes, provide gainful employment, and serve a wide variety of industry sectors - import/export, energy/chemical, manufacturing, commercial fishing, agriculture, and so forth. Our nation's ports serve as the vital link between our people and the goods they buy for their families as well as ensuring American made products can be purchased in foreign markets. Previous aid has served other sectors of the transportation industry deemed essential and now it is critical that all of our nation's ports receive much needed assistance to keep supply chains moving and keep both employees and customers safe

We stand ready to work with you to address these problems and make sure that all Americans receive assistance during these challenging times. Without this aid, industries served by ports will not be able to offer essential services to get our communities back into shape once we start to recover from this crisis.

Sincerely,



KURT SCHRADER
Member of Congress



ALAN LOWENTHAL
Member of Congress



RANDY WEBER
Member of Congress

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